

music, dance, and a resounding spirit of giving, these students demonstrate the power that lies in a love of community and desire to do good. It fills me with inspiration and hope for both their future and ours.

They are movers and shakers in every sense. They are the leaders of today.

Congratulations to the students of Glens Falls on their incredible, remarkable achievement.

Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

(Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Our relationship with Israel is a mutually beneficial partnership that not only reinforces America's moral values and strategic interests, but also promotes peace and stability.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is truly the embodiment of peace through strength. Having served 10 years in the U.S. military, I know how volatile this region is and understand that a key element of our own national security is the strength and security of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East.

Our two nations face many of the same terrorist threats, the only difference being that Israel is surrounded by hostile regional actors. As malicious regimes like Iran continue their quest for nuclear capabilities, it is imperative that America does not waver in our commitment to strengthen Israel's ability to defend itself.

In a world that grows more dangerous by the day, weakening our allies would have disastrous consequences for the security of our country and threaten the possibility of world peace.

I remain steadfast in my support for Israel and look forward to helping advance U.S.-Israel defense cooperation here in Congress.

FENTANYL PREVENTION CAUCUS

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, too often, the speeches we make on the floor of this Chamber emphasize our differences and divisions, but this morning I want to highlight and praise an act of bipartisanship, the creation of the Fentanyl Prevention Caucus.

Some of you know my family's story and how lucky we are that our son was not a victim to fentanyl overdose or drug poisoning, but many families have not been so lucky. Too many.

From 2021 to 2022, more than 107,000 people died of overdoses or fentanyl

poisoning. Sixty-seven percent involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Whether we focus on the flow of chemicals from China, the trafficking of drugs over our border or through airports or ports of entry, we must come together to stop this poisoning that is killing our loved ones.

This Congress needs to educate and legislate our way out of this tragedy. I believe this bipartisan caucus can do just that.

I thank my fellow co-chairs, Representatives NEGUSE, ISSA, and CALVERT, for their leadership. Bipartisan work will save lives.

RAISING CORPORATE TAX RATE TO 28 PERCENT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the President's budget proposal was announced. It contains some of the largest tax hikes in American history. If enacted, it would set the corporate tax rate at 28 percent, a higher level than even Communist China.

Combined State and Federal taxes would amount to 32 percent.

This tax burden will primarily fall where?

On American workers and consumers.

It is broadly accepted by economists on the left and right that corporate taxes hurt wage growth, with labor bearing as much as 25 percent of the cost of corporate taxes.

Some estimates even place that burden as high as 70 percent. Raising the corporate tax will hurt American workers, depress their wages, and lower their purchasing power.

This is not a pro-growth or pro-worker budget proposal. It is not even serious.

The President must meet with House Republicans and negotiate in good faith for spending reductions and work toward an actual balanced budget like everyday Americans do in their homes and their businesses.

HONORING DANIEL SANTA CRUZ

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for his invaluable service to our Nation's veterans, this Congress, and our country.

Daniel Santa Cruz joined our committee in 2020 as our digital director. From the outset, he demonstrated an outstanding technical ability and tremendous creative vision. He proved instrumental in helping the committee meet the new digital demands of the COVID-19 pandemic; developed, produced, and directed thousands of hours of compelling video content; created graphical representations of our work

for social media platforms; and captured powerful images of committee members hard at work for America's veterans across the world and in our Nation's Capital.

His charm, humor, and generosity have been infectious, and his commitment to the work of this committee has been incredibly impactful.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Daniel's service, and he will be deeply missed.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WITH CAPITAL

(Mr. THANEDAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Madam Speaker, I stand today to speak about the importance of uplifting small businesses in our country.

About 50 percent of U.S. GDP is generated by small businesses. Despite this, big corporations seem to always rake in big profits during economic hardship, while small businesses struggle to get by.

As a result, small business owners barely have enough leftover funds after payroll to reinvest into their businesses.

As a former small business owner, I know firsthand the difficulties these hardworking men and women face. Today, entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities, find it hard to get access to capital. I am calling for targeted programs to provide access to capital for Black and Brown communities for businesses led by veterans, the disabled, and women across this country.

RURAL HOSPITALS HAVE HIT A CRISIS POINT

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, we have reached a crisis in our healthcare system across our country. Over 180 hospitals, many of them rural hospitals, have closed nationwide since 2005.

Last month, the only hospital serving adults in Madera County was closed. Hospitals like Kaweah Health in Visalia, California, are sounding the alarm about higher costs and low Medicare reimbursement rates.

What are we talking about here?

We are talking about access to critical healthcare, emergency room services, critical care beds, elective surgery options, and women being able to have a place to give birth safely. We are talking about having access to healthcare in rural areas and throughout the country.

Congress must act now before more hospitals close. We must improve reimbursement rates and address staffing